

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Official Action, the Examiner made certain objections to the claims 4 and 8 and rejected all of the claims except claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tamada et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,750,313. In addition, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the combination of Tamada et al. in view of Celeste, U.S. Patent No. 3,448,089.

By the present Amendment, a minor revision has been made in the specification, claims 1-12 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 13-28 have been added. The new claims define subject matter which is supported by the specification and which is believed to be patentable over the teachings of the prior art. In particular, new claim 13 defines a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate comprising a support and a photosensitive layer containing a modified polyvinyl alcohol resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group and an acid group and an infrared absorber. The presence of an infrared absorber is supported by the specification such as in the passage beginning at the bottom of page 34 which explains that the absorber's function is to absorb infrared rays and convert them into heat. In this respect, the heat mode exposure functionality of this aspect of the invention is different from the mechanism achieved using a photosensitive layer which requires ultraviolet rays, such as taught in Tamada et al., at column 8, lines 52-58.

In a further aspect of the present invention, new independent claim 22 defines a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate which is similar to original claim 1, but which has a modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder having a radical-polymerizable group

and an acid group which contains a repeating unit having a radical polymerizable group represented by formula (I) and a repeating unit having an acid group represented by formula (III), the combination of which is nowhere disclosed nor suggested by Tamada et al.. New independent claim 23 defines a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate which includes, *inter alia*, a photopolymerization initiator including a titanocene compound which is disclosed in the specification in the passage beginning at page 32, line 7. The use of such a titanocene compound in the context of the photosensitive layer which further contains the defined modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder is also nowhere disclosed in the cited prior art of record.¹

New independent claim 26 defines a negative photosensitive lithographic printing plate comprising a support and a photosensitive layer which contains a modified poly(vinyl alcohol) resin binder and a photopolymerization initiator with the resin binder having repeating units represented by at least one of formula (II-A) and formula (II-B) as well as an acid group represented by formula (III) with the first two formulas being supported by Examples 19, 20, 39 and 40 of the specification and which are also not taught by the cited prior art.

The new claims also include certain method aspects of the invention and relate to the use of certain laser light which is also not disclosed by Tamada et al.. For example, dependent method claim 21 recites exposure using laser light of 760 to 1200 nm wavelength consistent with the description provided in the sentence bridging pages 34 and 35, and the last paragraph of page 116 which illustrates the use of an infrared laser.

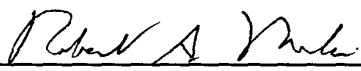
¹ Dependent claim 27 also recites a titanocene compound.

In light of the claims now of record and with an understanding of the advantages which may be obtained therefrom, such as high press life as illustrated in the Tables set forth on pages 111-114 and 118, applicants respectfully submit that the objections and rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met and that the claims now of record are patentable in all respects. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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